

# Outdoor Report

The week of November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014



*South Dakota*



## Wildlife Division

**"Serving People, Managing Wildlife"**

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- **East River Deer season runs November 22<sup>nd</sup> – December 7<sup>th</sup>. Reminder: only antlerless tags are valid during the late season, any deer tags do not convert.**
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### Brown County



#### Fishing Report:

**All lakes froze over last week. Ice is not safe to venture on.**



#### Hunting Report:

**Pheasants:** Hunters are finding more pheasants in southern Brown County. Hunters have had to work to get a limit of birds. The corn harvest is well underway, which is making the pheasants easier to hunt in some areas.

**Waterfowl:** With the recent colder temperatures most waterfowl has migrated out of the area. Still some pockets of geese and ducks.

**Swan:** Still some swans around, but most are heading south.

**Sand Lake Waterfowl Estimates:** Canada geese 1,600, snow geese 6,000, ducks 8,500 and 25 swans.

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## Clark County



### Fishing Report:

No fishing report. The lakes are freezing over and ice conditions are unsafe.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Most waterfowl have pushed through the area. There are a few pockets of ducks and geese around the larger bodies of water.

**Deer:** Deer have begun to group up and move towards their wintering ground or food sources. Hunters have had success this past week filling their licenses.

**Pheasant:** Pheasants have begun to group up due to recent snow. Hunters are reporting 2 – 3 birds per hunter.

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## Codington County



### Fishing Report:

There is little to no activity throughout the area. We are transitioning to ice-fishing and some are starting to venture out. Use caution as ice conditions vary.



### Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** Still a little migration taking place through the area. Ducks can only be found where there are little pockets of open water.

**Geese:** There are migrators passing through, but time is running out due to weather conditions.

**Pheasants:** Still some standing corn fields in the area and plenty of snow cover. Walking is tough, but the birds are a little easier to hunt when conditions allow.

**Deer:** The rut still continues, and the deer are starting to group up in their winter feeding habits due to the snow and cold.

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## Day County



### Fishing Report:

All small and large bodies of water have frozen. There are a few small pockets of open water that can be found on Waubay and Bitter. All fishermen should use extreme caution when ice fishing, especially this early in November. Ice fishermen have been fishing small bodies of water, but no reports have been taken to date.



### Hunting Report:

**Goose:** Large flocks of geese can be found throughout the county with a wide range of flock sizes. Goose numbers have continued to slowly decline over the past week.

**Duck:** Only a few localized ducks remain in the county.

**Pheasant:** Pheasant hunting remains to be productive in areas where crops have been harvested. Only a few un-harvested corn fields remain. With the recent snow locating birds in dense cover will be your best bet.

**Swan:** Swan sightings have decreased over the past week. A few birds still remain in the area, but the majority of birds have left.

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## Deuel County



### Fishing Report:

Ice conditions are getting better, but please continue to use caution on all lakes. Ice thickness is about an average of 5 inches.

**Lake Alice:** Some Perch and Walleye are being caught

**Lake Cochrane:** No activity yet.

**Lake Francis:** A few Perch are being caught.

**Clear Lake:** No activity.

**Fish Lake:** No activity.

**Round/School/Bullhead Lakes:** No activity.



### Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** Most of the geese have left the area.

**Duck:** The majority of ducks have moved out of the area.

**Pheasant:** Finding birds remains difficult, but there are certainly more birds this year than last year. The corn harvest is nearly complete.

**Deer:** Deer activity and movement has increased in the last few weeks.

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## Faulk County



### Fishing Report:

There is little to no fishing throughout the area as ice is forming.



### Hunting Report:

**Canada goose:** Most of the geese have migrated with the cold weather. There are still a few in the northeast portion of the county.

**Duck:** Most all of the ducks have left the area. A few remain in the Scatterwood Lake area.

**Pheasant:** The cold weather is grouping up the pheasants. Hunters that braved the cold this past weekend had some good hunting.

**Deer:** Rifle season opens Saturday. Deer movement has been good with the cold snap.

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## Grant County



### Fishing Report:

**Big Stone Lake:** Ice conditions still are unfavorable at this time. The Perch bite should be pretty good again this winter. There have been geese still utilizing the lake, so the ice thickness will be inconsistent.



### Hunting Report:

**Big Stone Power Plant:** There are a couple thousand ducks and Canada geese using the power plant. It seems like the best opportunity has been in the afternoons as the birds have been holding tight on the water most of the day until the last couple of hours before sunset.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are going to have to work hard and walk a lot to find success. Success has been low so far this season.

**Deer:** Deer movement has increased. Hunters should find some success over the opening weekend of east river deer season.

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## Hamlin County



### Fishing Report:

There is little to no activiting throughout the area. Ice is forming, but use caution as conditions vary.



### Hunting Report:

**Ducks:** A little migration is still taking place throughout the area. Ducks are only found where there are little pockets of open water.

**Geese:** Migrators are passing through, but time is running out due to weather conditions.

**Pheasants:** Still some standing corn fields in the area and plenty of snow cover. Walking is tough, but the birds are a little easier to hunt when conditions allow.

**Deer:** The rut still continues and the deer are starting to group up in their winter feeding habits due to the snow and cold.

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## Marshall County



### Fishing Report:

Some fishing activity has been observed. Please use caution! Ice has formed on most bodies of water across the county. Ice conditions are unsafe and variable.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** The majority of waterfowl has migrated through the area. A few very small pockets of birds are dotted around the county.

**Deer:** Archery deer hunters have had great hunting conditions the past few weeks. The deer have been moving great in the morning and evenings. **Reminder: It is illegal to shoot big game from the road/vehicle. It is also illegal to pursue, chase or harass big game with a vehicle. To make it simple, get out of the vehicle and make it a hunt to remember.**

**Pheasant:** Pheasant hunters are finding birds in the cattails adjacent to agricultural fields. When hunting cattails, be very careful when walking on the ice. Small sloughs have the tendency to have very unsafe ice conditions. Good luck and be safe.

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## McPherson & Edmunds Counties



### Fishing Report:

There is 3 to 4 inches of ice. Use caution.



### Hunting Report:

**Pheasant:** Success was not very good. Hunters averaged about 1.5 birds per person since opening weekend. Hunters are finding birds in standing corn and corn that has just been harvested or in slough areas. Hunters reported seeing minimal birds. Hunter numbers were down. Snow conditions are causing pheasants to bunch up.

**Deer:** Deer are starting to bunch up and if possible, hunters should start harvesting.

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## Roberts County



### Fishing Report:

No activity due to poor ice conditions.



### Hunting Report:

**Waterfowl:** Most ducks and geese are gone, but hunters may find hunt-able numbers coming off the Big Stone Power Plant.

**Grouse:** Grouse hunters are struggling to find birds.

**Pheasant:** Hunters had difficulty finding birds, but they are finding one or two.

**Deer:** Youth hunters and archers are finding a few deer moving around.

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## Spink County



### Fishing Report:

Ice is new and thin in a lot of areas. Use caution.

**Twin Lake:** No fishing activity observed.

**Mud Lake:** No fishing activity observed.

**Cottonwood Lake:** Anglers are trying some ice fishing. Use caution. Ice is approximately 4 inches.

**Redfield Lake:** No fishing activity observed.



### Hunting Report:

**Goose:** Most all of the geese are gone. There are a few remaining small groups of snow geese.

**Duck:** Most of the ducks migrated south with the cold weather and snow. Most all of the water has frozen up.

**Pheasant:** Hunters are having better success as the season progresses. Hunters are reporting decent numbers of birds in the heavy cover areas. Northern Spink County is producing good numbers of birds.

**Deer:** Rifle season opens Saturday. Archery hunters have been seeing good deer movement with the cold weather.